



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Catherine Muschamp papers**

1971-1988

\*T-Mss 2002-034

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Muschamp, Catherine

**Title:** Catherine Muschamp papers

**Date:** 1971-1988

**Size:** .4 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by M. David Samples, 1996 to 2006.

**Abstract:** Catherine Muschamp was a British playwright, librettist, and actor whose plays were produced in Australia, Europe, and the United States. Muschamp's career spanned over forty years in the performing arts. Her plays include the Beheading, The Four Crowns and The Killing Game. The collection, dated 1971 to 1988, holds correspondence and photographs.

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**Preferred citation:** Catherine Muschamp papers, \*T-Mss 2002-034. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

**Related Materials:**

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## Creator History

Catherine Muschamp (1917-) was a British playwright, librettist and actor. Muschamp developed an interest in the theater from her father who performed as a circus clown. World War II and military service ended her career in vaudeville. Post-war, Muschamp's career would continue as a playwright, librettist, and actor for the next forty years. Her plays were produced in Australia, Europe and the United States. Muschamp's many works include The Beheading, The Four Crowns, and The Killing Game. Muschamp used several name credits: Catherine Lloyd-Thomas, Thomas Muschamp, and Catherine

Muschamp. Muschamp currently resides in Europe.

## **Custodial History**

The collection was maintained by M. David Samples.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection, dated 1971 to 1988, holds letters addressed to M. David Samples and Wayne F. Maxwell from Catherine Muschamp. Her letters, dated 1976 to 1988, include information about the development of her plays, reviews by critics, and collaborations with Samples and Maxwell.

Plays that Muschamp wrote about include *The Four Crowns* (formerly titled *The Plantagenets*) and *The Killing Game* (a rewrite of the *Game of Kings*). Her letters indicate that *The Killing Game* was both critically and financially successful. The remaining materials are photographs from *The Four Crowns*, two studio photographs of Muschamp, and a program for *The Beheading* produced at the Apollo Theatre in London.

**Arrangement:** The collection is organized by format: biographical information, correspondence, photographs, and format.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Actors  
Librettists  
Playwrights

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence  
Photographs  
Theatre programs

### **Subjects**

Theater -- 20th century

### **Names**

Maxwell, Wayne F., 1939-2000  
Samples, M. David

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical Information circa 1971-1988
- b. 1 f. 2-6 General Correspondence 1976-1988
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Photographs 1979  
The file contains photographs of the play *The Four Crowns*, and Catherine Muschamp.
- b. 1 f. 9 *Theatre Program. The Beheading* 1971